



For centuries, mapmakers have agonized over how to accurately display our round planet on anything other than a globe. Now, a fundamental re-imagining of how maps can work has resulted in the most accurate flat map ever made, from a trio of map experts: J. Richard Gott, an emeritus professor of astrophysics at Princeton and creator of a



Narukawa's AuthaGraph World Map, which he unveiled in 2016, won the coveted Grand Award of Japan's Good Design Award competition, beating out over 1,000 entries in a variety of categories. His map overcame 2D distortions by angling continents in a way that accurately displays both their relative sizes and the distances between them.



This Clever Map Shows the True Size of Countries. Maps are hugely important tools in our everyday life, whether it's guiding our journeys from point A to B, or shaping our big picture perceptions about geopolitics and the environment.